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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3220

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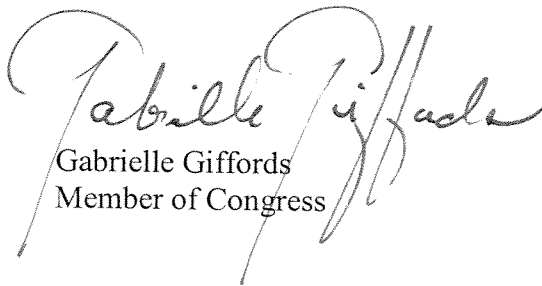
Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As Members of the House Armed Services Committee, we believe that securing our nation and protecting Americans from terrorist attacks is our greatest responsibility in Congress. That is why we strongly urge you to immediately concentrate on completing work on the new Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) this week upon our return to Congressional session.

Last November, the House passed a FISA bill, which we voted for, that provided our intelligence community with the authority it needs. It would allow them to spy on foreign terrorists, while continuing to protect American citizens from unwarranted wiretapping. Then the Senate completely revised that bill and sent it back to the House two weeks ago. Clearly there is a lot of negotiating needed in order to reconcile the two versions and develop a final bill. We believe that such negotiations must resume immediately.

As you know, the interim FISA legislation that addressed the problem of foreign communications that travel through a switch based in the United States, expired on Feb. 16th. This is unacceptable. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to make negotiating this important law your number one priority this week.

Sincerely,



Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
Member of Congress